

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Office of Democracy and Governance
<b>Program Title:</b>	Rule of Law Program
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	932-001
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$1,447,000 DA
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$158,000 DA
<b>Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$1,825,000 DA
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	FY 1997
<b>Year of Final Obligation:</b>	FY 2007

**Summary:** The purpose of this DG program is to strengthen USAID programming and reinforce country-based efforts in the areas of:

- Supporting the role of legal systems in consolidating democracy;
- Promoting respect for human rights;
- Improving the institutional administration of justice;
- Increasing access to justice; and
- Building local constituencies for justice sector reform and improvement.

The DG office helps to ensure that USAID rule of law (ROL) programs are effective in building toward democratic governance in developing countries. This is done through the development of methodologies based on lessons learned world-wide in the design and implementation of ROL assistance, through direct support for program design, implementation and monitoring, and through management of contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and interagency agreements.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2004 Program:

The DG Office will continue to provide innovative technical guidance to USAID missions, help improve U.S. ROL field programs, and further establish USAID's role as a leader in ROL and justice sector assistance. Priorities for FY 2004 include linking ROL to broader DG objectives, and adapting ROL approaches to the problems of failed and failing states. FY 2004 resources will increase the DG Office's capacity to provide such technical assistance through DG Office staff and new institutional contracts. The primary uses for 2004 funds are technical personnel to carry out field support and grant and contract management (\$485,000), technical leadership initiatives (\$300,000), support for rapid response and human rights initiatives (\$400,000), and support to the International Judicial Relations Committee of the United States Federal Judiciary (\$50,000).

Work is nearly complete on the award of new indefinite quantity contracts (IQCs) to permit rapid response and technical assistance to ROL programs. The award, planned for FY 2003, was delayed due to competing demands for Iraq procurement. Similarly, new leader with associate cooperative agreements will be competed and awarded in FY 2004.

The 2001 Guidance for Promoting Judicial Independence and Impartiality remains one of the most important publications on judicial reform, and will be further disseminated to partners in seminars scheduled in 2005 in Asia and Eastern Europe. The DG Office also anticipates dissemination of a new guide on access to justice and an analytic framework for ROL country analysis. This latter document is intended to fill the need for a standard methodology for developing ROL strategies in light of the wide range of circumstances where ROL programming takes place. It is the first new framework for developing new ROL strategies in a decade.

Priorities for technical leadership include providing technical guidance to ROL programs in post-conflict settings, developing guidance for administrative law programs as they may relate to developing and transition countries, and an inventory of USAID's experience in incorporating police into ROL programs. The DG Office has also been invited to collaborate on a U.S. Institute for Peace project on the role of informal justice systems in post-conflict societies.

**FY 2005 Program:**

The FY 2005 effort will continue to provide field support to all regions. Increased attention will be dedicated to regions of high foreign policy importance, such as the Middle East, and regions with less experience with ROL programs such as Africa. The DG Office will use program funds to strengthen the inter-agency process of ROL information sharing that was initiated in FY 2003, and will continue supporting empirical research that furthers the objectives of ROL programs in the context of broader DG programming. Topics for technical manuals or research include administrative law, non-traditional legal institutions that have received significant donor support, such as community justice centers and ombudsmen, and alternative dispute resolution, where the demand for information is high and new research is needed following several years of experience.

**Performance and Results:** In FY 2003, the DG Office provided more extensive field support than in past years, including to the Europe and Eurasia region, as well as Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America. The DG Office was also more present and prominent in international ROL fora and has launched an inter-agency working group composed of U.S. Government agencies to share information and best practices as a first step toward greater coordination. A new ROL analytic guide, to assist practitioners in making strategic choices in ROL, is being field tested, and a guide to access to justice is in draft. Guidance for Promoting Judicial Independence and Impartiality has been presented in international fora, and has been translated into several languages. The DG Office managed and monitored a major ROL initiative under the Middle East Partnership Initiative, including a regional conference in Bahrain, and supported USAID non-presence country initiatives in Oman, Lesotho, and Swaziland through the International Development Law Organization. In addition the DG Office added to its responsibilities by taking on the management of grants for regional rule of law assistance on behalf of the Europe and Eurasia bureau.

Work on new indefinite quantity contracts (IQC), delayed by the demands of Iraq procurement, is nearly complete; when completed these will enable USAID missions to issue task orders through FY 2009. The funding ceilings of existing ROL IQCs were raised and are available until the new IQCs are awarded. A leader with associates cooperative agreement was extended through FY 2005 to accommodate new actions under the Middle East Partnership Initiative.

**Principal Contractors, Grantees, or Agencies:** The DG Office manages seven ROL contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and inter-agency agreements which enable USAID missions and other U.S. Government agencies to implement work in the area of rule of law. Contractors include the National Center for State Courts (and sub-contractors DPK Consulting and the National Judicial College), the IRIS Center (and sub-contractors Abt Associates, American University, Casals and Associates, Inter-American Bar Association, International Programs Consortium, Inc., Amex International, Inc., Barents Group, University of Maryland, International Law Institute, and the Spangenberg Group), and Management Sciences for Development, Inc. (and its sub-contractors State University of New York, American University, Planitech, and Brown and Co.). The International Development Law Organization has a grant as a public international organization. Cooperative agreements are held with the RIGHTS Consortium (consisting of Freedom House, the American Bar Association, and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs); and the International Foundation for Election Systems/International Human Rights Law Group Consortium. In the USAID reorganization of 2001 the DG Office also took on responsibility for management grants to the American Bar Association's Central and East European Law Initiative, and to Florida State University. Finally the DG Office also maintains an inter-governmental relationship with the Department of Justice.